

Heritage House Newsletter

Old North School, Abbeyleix

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It's Christmas in Abbeyleix! The lights are on and the town is looking magical. As we prepare for our Christmas story telling in Heritage House we are also looking forward to the New Year and planning some very exciting events and exhibitions for 2019.

We will have a pop up exhibition, 'Handmade with Care', on the history of enterprising women of Laois through crafts early in the year. This will also include several workshops. 2019 will be a dynamic year for Heritage House with many different exhibitions and activities. So keep an eye out for something that may suit you.



Abbeyleix Pillow Lace Fan

Our Staff

As a way to get to know our staff a bit better we will be asking a member of the team some heritage related questions. This month Heritage House's Manager, Francine Ashe, is in the hot seat!

What is your favorite piece on display in the museum?

It's too hard to choose! I think the copy of Mein Kampf is pretty impressive as it's so shocking and has a huge amount of history associated with it. I also love the The Burroghs Typewriter and the smaller of the two travel chests.



Upcoming Events

December 20

FREE Christmas Storytelling 11-11:45am

Weekly Activities

Monday 7.30pm Comhaltas Adult Music Classes

Tuesday 11.00am Probus

Tuesday 3.00pm Computer Coding with Isabelle

Friday 10.00am Yoga

From Thursday 10 January 2019
Pilates 10.00am

From Monday 28 January 2019
Art Classes 11.00am

For further information on these events, or for enquiries about holding an event please contact Heritage House 057 8731653

Monthly Activities

1st Friday of the month Laois Beekeepers Society 7.30-9.30pm

1st/2nd Thursday of the month Home Education Network 12.30pm

What do you like best about Heritage House?

The people!

What is your most interesting historical fact?

That Caesar salad is not Italian...it was invented by Caesar Cardini in Tijuana, Mexico in 1924!

If you could go back in time, what time would you chose to visit?

I would like to go back to Iran circa 3200BC to the Proto-Elamite civilisation, just for the jewellery and luxury.

What historical figure would you like to have a cup of tea with?

I'd love to have coffee with Beatrix Potter in her garden.



Recent Events

The Mad Hatters Chocolate Brunch

We had a some fabulously creative hat designs and lashings and lashings of marshmallow covered hot chocolate at our brunch. The children outdid themselves with their creations and all the staff enjoyed their company and enthusiasm. Thank you to all those little mad hatters who attended and to their parents who supported us.



Did You Know...

The official date for Christmas was agreed in the fourth century by Pope Julius I. It coincides with the Roman feast of Bacchanalia or Saturnalia, and the Norse feast of Yule.

Did you Know...

Mistletoe got its name in Anglo Saxon times. The Anglo Saxons noticed that the plant grew on the branches of trees that had a lot of bird droppings on them. So 'mistle' means dung and 'tan' means twig. Hence, mistle tan, 'dung on a twig'.

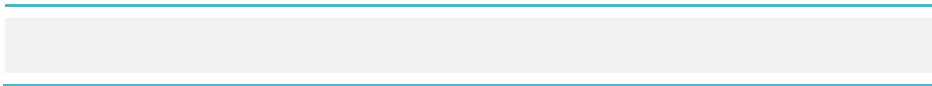
Did you Know...

The Irish custom of placing a candle in the window during the Christmas period is to light the way for Mary and Joseph and welcome them into the house.

Upcoming Events

FREE Christmas Story Telling December 20 11-11.45am

Take a break from the Christmas rush and join us for Christmas stories from around the world while enjoying a mince pie and a cup of something hot. If you have any suggestions for books or stories you would like read, please contact us. Suitable for all ages.



St Bridget's Cloak Making Workshop January 5 - 26

We are holding a workshop to recreate St Bridget's Cloak. This is open for children aged 10 and up. It will involve sewing together recycled fabric to create the cloak. The charge is €10 per family and this will include a six-month family pass into the museum. The finished cloak will be unveiled at our 'Handmade with Care' exhibition.

Film Review

Our part-time research assistant Shea McCauley has been reviewing Speed Racer.

Speed Racer is a 2008 film directed by Lana and Lily Wachowski, based on the 1967 anime of the same name by Tatsuo Yoshida. It follows the main character Speed as he participates in various wacky race escapades while attempting to uncover the corruption of the racing industry at the hands of Royalton Industries.

Right out the gate the film hits you with one of the most exhilarating opening scenes in recent memory. However, it is here that I have my first issue. There are so many things going on at once; the heavy neon lighting and fast pace of the film may give you a headache and tire you out. Also it is not advisable to watch this film if you have photo sensitive epilepsy.

If, however, you can get past that, this is an exhilarating film. The impressive thing about this film is how it goes through many styles and tones. From cubism to childlike sketches, showing Speed's passion for the sport of car racing. To the sombre family moments and the genuinely threatening moment where all eyes are on Speed.

The performances themselves were fantastic, from John Goodman and Susan Sarandon, who were wholesome and earnest as Speed's Vaudeville esc. parents who are both recovering from the death of their first son while dealing with the possibility of losing their second son to the same fate. Rodger Alm, who chews all sorts of scenery, is delightful as Royalton. He is the type of guy who takes pleasure in the idea that he once grew his industry from his bedroom only to disregard all human life in the process of obtaining wealth, and delights in doing it. Rounding out the cast is the earnest Speed, performed by Emile Hirsch, he believes in the purity of racing only to have that crushed. However, instead of giving up on the sport, he wants to prove to himself, and Royalton, that capitalism doesn't matter in lieu of genuine human skill.

Overall, if you are in the mood for a more wholesome earnest sports movie that embraces all the clichés in a postmodern fashion then this film is for you. However, while I loved the fast pace of the film I would say it's not for everyone, but its wholesomeness and earnestness is what sold the film to me regardless and the fact that it is the best anime adaptation yet.



Be A Heritage Detective

Our younger visitors can now explore the museum through our interactive quiz. So if there is a cold and wet afternoon print out the quiz from our website and spend some time getting to know the history of Abbeyleix in a fun and creative way.

Calling all crafting enthusiasts!

We will be holding a pop up exhibition in the new year to highlight the entrepreneurial spirit of Laois women through craft. Do you have any handmade crafts, old and new, that we could include? Submission deadline is the 7th of January. We are very excited about this project and would be very grateful for any help you could give us.

